

the judgment made in 1965, when we adopted the medicare bill, that we therefore should withdraw the special tax benefits that were given the beneficiaries of the medicare bill?

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. We would be reversing the judgment of the House of Representatives. We certainly would not be reversing the judgment of the Senate.

Mr. LAUSCHE. I thank the Senator.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Mr. President, I should like to discuss briefly a number of other amendments. Three of these amendments involve the depletion

[P. 2534]

allowance. The first places alumina clay on the same basis as bauxite.

This, incidentally, would involve no revenue loss at all presently; but by giving what we believe to be appropriate tax treatment to this Georgia clay and to these low-grade ores in Arkansas, we would hope that this industry could improve its position and that this Nation could become self-sufficient in the production of aluminum. As a practical matter, this might result in more revenue, in the event that these American industries are successful in processing this clay and these low-grade ores. It deals with alumina clay. It takes about twice as much of it to make a ton of aluminum as it does when bauxite is used. The provision also includes more mining processes in the base to which the percentage depletion rate applies.

The second amendment places clam and oyster shells on the same depreciation basis as other sources of calcium carbonate. The third clarifies the status of certain mining processes in the case of shale, clay and slate used in making concrete aggregates, such as cinder blocks.

Two of the amendments involve the provisions of self-employed retirement plans. One deals with the case in which a self-employed person invests both his capital and his time in a business. Under this amendment, the first \$6,600 of his net profits will, in any event, be regarded as earned income, rather than only the first \$2,500. Amounts in excess of the limit will continue to be allocated between personal services and capital. The second amendment treats the royalty income of authors and inventors as earned income. These amendments insure that all self-employed persons have access to the retirement provisions on a more nearly equal basis.

One final amendment I would like to call to the attention of the Senate is one that was proposed to the committee by the senior Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. SALTONSTALL]. This amendment requires the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to Congress by March 31 of each year a report showing the amount of the Federal Government's contingent

liabilities and the amount of the assets available to meet these liabilities.

I am sure that that would meet with the approval of the Senator from Ohio as well; because it was felt that we should have a statement somewhere of all our contingent liabilities, and it was felt that we should have a positive statement of what assets we have available to meet those liabilities.

This provision will enable the Congress to better measure and analyze the impact of many long-range programs. Such analysis is often difficult when financial requirements are reported on an annual basis.

Mr. President, the many and separate provisions of this bill have received the committee's consideration and approval.

In this bill we have added, as I say, a number of amendments, in the effort to see that the suggestions that Senators have made—that they have been urging, that they have been studying—will receive some consideration.

I realize that revenue bills must originate in the House. The Senate does have the power to amend. Contrary to what some contend—that we only have a right to amend a revenue bill in a manner that is relevant to the bill, the Constitution provides nothing of the sort. I would hope that we never are confronted with the kind of difficulty that once confronted our Committee on Appropriations, when the committees experienced an impasse of almost a year because of quarreling about who was going to walk to meet whom and about what room the Senators were to meet in. The Constitution is clear that the right of the Senate to amend a revenue bill is unlimited. We can add any amendment, except a constitutional amendment, which of course would be contrary to the Constitution itself.

So, in effect, we urged Senators not to offer amendments that were not germane on a number of revenue bills, in order to expedite those bills. The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. SALTONSTALL] was prevailed upon a number of times to withhold his amendment with respect to a statement of liabilities.

Eventually, Senators want their measures considered before we adjourn. We selected this very important bill on which to consider those amendments. The committee has given its best consideration to the effort. Many provisions of the bill have received careful consideration by the committee.

Mr. President, I urge the Senate to give the measure prompt consideration.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. I yield.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Since I have been in the Senate, I have listened to, and at times participated in, debates dealing with what one side claimed to be the evil of depletion allowances, and on the other side, those who argued that depletion allowances were sound.